Assistance to voluntary organisations

2649. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 71,000 people and 175 voluntary organisations were given assistance worth Rs. 936.78 lakhs during 1987-88 and if so, State-wise breakup thereof indicating the names of the voluntary agencies as reported in the Hindu on 6th June, 1988; and

(b) if so, what is the assistance given/proposed to be given during the year 1988-89?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) In 1987-88 approximately 97500 handicapped persons benefited by grants from Welfare Ministry through 320 organisations and the Scheme of Scholarships for disabled students of the Ministry of Welfare. The total grants given under these heads were 937.46 lakhs. State-wise break-up of organisations and grant are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, *Annexure No. 142-43.*

(b) The amounts proposed to be given in 1988-89 are as follows:—

Schemes	(Rs. in lakhs)
(*i*) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled . . .	450.30
(*ii*) Scheme of Scholarships for the Disabled . . .	305.00
(*iii*) Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of aids/appliances . . .	520.00

Maharashtra Government's request on SC/ST certificate

2650. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra are persistently requesting the Central Government to relax or modify the rules for issuing caste certificate to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in case of migration from one State to another; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such request and action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had suggested that in the case of persons particularly belonging to Safai Kamgar Community, who are most backward and vulnerable and migrants to the State of Maharashtra, the rules for issue of Schedules Caste certificate could be relaxed. According to the existing instructions, a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe person on migration from the State of his origin to another State will not lose his status as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, but will be entitled to the concessions/benefits admissible to the Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes from the State of his origin and not from the State where he has migrated. In view of this, the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe persons who have migrated in the State of Maharashtra after the issue of first Presidential Order which was issued in 1950 can get benefits from the State of their origin.

The State Government of Maharashtra has already been informed of the position.

Stock of imported edible oils, soyabean oils and rapeseed oil

2651. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated stock of imported edible oils—soyabean and rapeseed oil—at the end of 1988 stating the value in terms of foreign exchange;

(b) whether Government propose to restore the concessions in the supply of edible oils to the Vanaspati Units in the country; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to dispose of the stock of imported edible oils?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) An estimated quantity of about 1.29 lakh MT of imported Soyabean and Rapeseed Oils were in stock with the STC at the end of the year 1988 valued at approximately Rs. 82.27 crores in terms of foreign exchange.

(b) The Government stopped the supply of imported edible oils at concessional rates to the Vanaspati Industry w.e.f. December, 1988 because of the increased availability of indigenous edible oils in the market and declining prices. As this position remains unchanged it is presently felt that the supply of imported edible oils at concessional rates to the vanaspati industry would not be appropriate.

(c) The Government has decided to utilise the stocks of rapeseed oil to meet the requirements of Public Distribution System and the stocks of Soyabean oil to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces/PDS.

Public distribution outlets in Rural and Urban areas

2652. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of the public distribution system outlets in the Rural areas as compared to the outlet in the Urban areas and what are the reasons for wide variations in the PDS outlets;

(b) what percentage of the target for opening of fair price shops in under-served and unserved areas during the Seventh Plan besides organising mobile shops in far flung area have been achieved at the end of 1988 stating the reasons for unsatisfactory results; and

(c) whether any evaluation of the public distribution system has been made to know how far it has served the rural poor in alleviation of poverty and protecting them against inflationary prices; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Out of 3.50 lakh fair price shops in the country as on 30-9-1988, about 76 per cent are in the rural areas and 24 per cent in the urban areas. As the rural population is larger than the urban population, more fair price shops are located in rural areas.

(b) The targets and the achievements of opening fair price shops during 1985-86 to 1988-89 are given below.

Year	Targets	Achievements
1985-86 .	6065	8520
1986-87 .	6505	9847
1987-88 .	4035	9926
1988-89 .	4387	4307 (upto December, 1988)

(c) In its Evaluation Report on Essential Supplies Programme submitted in February, 1985, the Programme Evaluation Organisation (P.E.O.) of the Planning Commission has given a finding, *inter alia*, on the basis of households canvassed, that one of the cardinal objectives of the Public Distribution Programme, *viz.*, that of adequately covering the poorer sections of the population, especially in rural areas, was being fulfilled.

Capacity utilisation norms for different category of fertilizers plants

2653. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the promised return of 12 per cent post-tax under the fertilizers retention price scheme has not been materialised so far; if so, what are the reasons therefor;